

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

JILLYN K. SCHULZE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

6500 CHERRYWOOD LANE
SUITE 335
GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
(301) 344-0630
Fax: (301) 344-0629

July 13, 2009

Mark B. Martin, Esquire
One N Charles St Suite 1215
Baltimore MD 21201

Jeffrey A. Krew, Esquire
4785 Dorsey Hall Dr Suite 120
Ellicott City MD 21042

Re: *Rosemary Boucher, et al. v. Board of Education of Montgomery County, et al.*
Civil No. AW 09-1101

Dear Counsel:

Please be advised that a settlement conference in the above-captioned case has been scheduled for **July 20, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.** to be held in my chambers (Room 335A). It is essential that the parties, or in the case of a corporation or partnership, an officer or other representative with complete authority to enter into a binding settlement, be present in person. Attendance by the attorney for a party is not sufficient. See Local Rule 607.3. Please also be advised that the conference may take the entire day.

No later than July 17, 2009, I would like to receive from each party a short letter candidly setting forth the following:

1. Facts you believe you can prove at trial;
2. The major weaknesses in each side's case, both factual and legal;
3. An evaluation of the maximum and minimum damage awards you believe likely;
4. The history of any settlement negotiations to date; and
5. Estimate of attorney's fees and costs of litigation through trial.

The letters may be submitted *ex parte* and will be solely for my use in preparing for the settlement conference. I also will review the pleadings in the court file. Additionally, if you want me to review any case authorities that you believe are critical to your evaluation of the case, please identify. If you want me to review any exhibits or deposition excerpts, please attach a copy to your letter.¹

¹ Please note that the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility has issued a Formal Opinion (No. 93-370) that precludes a lawyer, ABSENT INFORMED CLIENT CONSENT, from revealing to a judge the limits of the lawyer's settlement authority or the lawyer's advice to the client regarding settlement. The opinion does not preclude a judge, in seeking to facilitate a settlement, from inquiring into those matters. Therefore, please discuss these items

Counsel

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The settlement conference process will be confidential and disclosure of confidential dispute resolution communications is prohibited. *See 28 U.S.C. § 652(d); Local Rule 607.4.*

This letter is an order of the court and shall be so docketed.

Very truly yours,

/S/

Jillyn K. Schulze
United States Magistrate Judge